

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
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SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, IC

SUBJECT: DUAL PURPOSE AIR TERMINAL: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR
ANDERSEN TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ISA, DAVID E.
MCGIFFERT MET ON 12 JANUARY WITH ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR HANS
G. ANDERSEN, AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST, ON THE QUESTION OF
US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL-
PURPOSE AIR TERMINAL AT KEFLAVIK. THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL
THROUGHOUT.

2. ANDERSEN REHEARSED THE NOW FAMILIAR POSITION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND (GOI) ON THE AIR TERMINAL ISSUE.
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HE RECALLED THE VISIT OF THE GOI FOREIGN MINISTER LAST
SEPTEMBER AND HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY BROWN. UN-
FORTUNATELY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT GIVEN THE GOI'S
VIEWS FULLY TO THE SECRETARY, AND THE SECRETARY HAD STATED
THAT HE COULD NOT ASK CONGRESS FOR MONEY FOR A CIVILIAN
TERMINAL. ANDERSEN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AFTER HIM
TO GIVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CURRENT PROPOSAL, AND HE

WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION ON HOW IT WAS DEVELOPING. MCGIFFERT RESPONDED THAT WE ARE STAFFING THE GOI'S PROPOSAL FOR A DUAL TERMINAL VIGOROUSLY AND GIVING IT A SERIOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOOK. IT IS NOT AN EASY QUESTION

AND HE COULD NOT SAY HOW SOON WE WILL FINISH IT. THE AMBASSADOR, OF COURSE, WAS AWARE OF ADMIRAL KIDD'S CONCERN. ANDERSEN OBSERVED THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO USE THE TERMINAL IF CONFLICT OCCURRED AND THAT ARGUMENT OUGHT TO HELP. MCGIFFERT AFFIRMED THAT DOD IS STUDYING POSSIBLE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TERMINAL IN A NATO EMERGENCY OR WAR, INCLUDING USE AS A HOSPITAL OR OPERATIONAL CONTROL CENTER.

3. ANDERSEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO CONGRESS OR WOULD IT BE IMPROPER? MCGIFFERT REPLIED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IMPROPER BUT MIGHT BE UNWISE. HE THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WAIT FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO REACH A DECISION. CONGRESS IS SENSITIVE TO CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE. HOWEVER, THAT WAS SOMETHING THE GOI WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. VANCE

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